There must be some information that could be provided? DBC File

faculty

NEWSLETTER

SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

Vol. V No. 4 Montreal, Quebec Date January 29, 1964

To All Staff Members,
Sir George Williams University,
Montreal, P.Q.

Dear Staff Member:

It may surprise you to receive this in lieu of the issue of the Faculty Newsletter which was scheduled to be published on January 31, 1964. The reason is really quite simple - there is no material to be published! Despite my pleading for material in each previous issue, the Newsletter file is empty save for one article recently submitted by one of the members of the part-time staff which, interesting and valuable as the article is, hardly justifies the issuance of it 'in solitary splendor'.

Needless to say, I am most disappointed by this lack of 'material' support for the Newsletter and can only hope that the non-publication of the January 31st issue will prompt some staff-members to undertake to prepare something for publication in the next issue which is scheduled for March 15th with a submission date for material of February 29th. I feel certain that there must be a number of staff-members who have 'toyed' with the idea of writing something for the Newsletter but who have simply not done it as a result of other pressures on their time. Certainly, 'Now is the time for all good men (and women) to come to the aid of their Newsletter' for if there continues to be the same dearth of material for publication, it will doubtless be necessary to omit the March 15th issue as well.

It seems strange to me that, with somewhere between 300 to 400 full- and part-time staff-members, there are not at least a dozen or so who cannot resist the urge to write 'something' for publication be it an article related to their field of interest, a commentary on some political, economic, social, cultural, intellectual or religious issue in our society, a piece of prose or poetry on, quite literally, any subject at all, a review of a book which one has read and found most interesting and stimulating, a criticism, either constructive or destructive, of the state of affairs in the world of literature, art, music or radio

and television; any of these suggestions might well serve as the basis for someone undertaking to do something to aid the cause.

A few years ago, members of the staff, both full- and part-time, complained that no effort was made to provide this academic community with a vehicle of communication. Now that it does exist, it is, quite literally, being 'starved to death' for lack of 'material' support. One could have hoped that, with the unstinting support of its community, the Newsletter might have developed, (and still could!) into something more significant than 'just a Newsletter': it has been thought that it might have become the basis upon which a journal could be founded which would rank, in time, with other publications such as 'the Queen's Quarterly, the University of Toronto Quarterly, the Dalhousie Review, etc.'. That day now seems further off than before.

Perhaps it would have been better for me to have ignored the issue involved in the present situation but I have chosen not to do so. It seems to me that, if there is really so little interest in the Newsletter on the part of its constituents, it means that there should be no further effort made to continue its existence. The decision rests, quite clearly, with all members of the staff. Naturally, I would hope that there would be a sufficient response to this challenge to make it possible for the Newsletter to continue to provide even the limited service to this academic community which it has in the past.

Yours truly,

Robert A. Fraser

Robert A. Fraser
Editor
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